

The CIVIC Act can begin the process of building this counterweight for federal elections. This bill is designed to encourage Americans who ordinarily do not get involved in politics beyond casting a vote every two or four years (that is, if they bother to vote at all) to become more active participants in our political process.

The CIVIC Act will reestablish and update the discontinued federal tax credit. Taxpayers can choose between a 100 percent tax credit for political contributions to federal candidates or national political parties (limited to \$200 per taxable year), or a 100 percent tax deduction (limited to \$600 per taxable year). Both limits, of course, are doubled for joint returns. As long as political parties and candidates promote the existence of these credits, the program can have a real impact and aid in making elections more grassroots affairs than they are today.

A limited tax credit for political contributions can be a bipartisan, cost-efficient method for helping balance the influence of large money donors in the American electoral process. Instead of driving away most Americans from participation in political life, we can offer an invitation for citizens to play a larger role in political campaigns. It seems to me that this will be a fruitful way to clean up our system, while at the same time convincing Americans that they actually have a meaningful stake in elections.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF GARY PENROD

#### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most respected public servants in my district, San Bernardino County Sheriff Gary Penrod, who is stepping down this month after nearly 40 years protecting our citizens.

A Southern California native, Gary Stephen Penrod graduated from Redlands Schools, worked as a U.S. Forest Service firefighter and is a U.S. Army veteran. But his life has been in law enforcement, and he has served in the sheriff's department since being deputized in 1971.

Sheriff Penrod spent time on patrol in most of the vast desert and mountain reaches of San Bernardino County, and received regular promotions over the years. When the city of Hesperia incorporated in 1988, the sheriff's department contracted to provide police services, and Gary Penrod became the first Hesperia Police Chief.

By the time our former sheriff retired in 1994, Gary Penrod had been promoted to Deputy Chief. He easily defeated six other candidates and was sworn in as sheriff on Jan. 3, 1995. He has been reelected to three more four-year terms.

When he first took office in 1994, San Bernardino County had a population of 774,000 people. Today, more than 2 million people live in the sheriff's jurisdiction. Deputies responded to 617,000 calls in 1994, last year they had more than 1.2 million.

Mr. Speaker, San Bernardino County was known in the past for having some colorful

characters as our top law enforcer. Sheriff Penrod has had a reputation for quiet leadership, for helping the department achieve high recognition for professionalism, and for encouraging his deputies to stay on the cutting edge as law enforcement has modernized.

During his tenure, Sheriff Penrod implemented community based policing and many innovative programs and staffing enhancements including: Crime Free Multi-Housing, Operation CleanSWEEP, Public Safety Internship Academy, Marijuana Eradication Team, Methamphetamine Lab Task Force, Narcotics Special Enforcement Teams and Gang Enforcement Units. Sheriff Penrod oversaw the merger with the San Bernardino Marshall's office and in 2005 he became Sheriff-Coroner of San Bernardino County.

A highly respected leader, Sheriff Penrod is a member of San Bernardino County Children's Network, San Bernardino County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association, California Police Officers' Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs' Association, Western State Sheriffs' Association, California State Coroners' Association, and the Governor's Corrections Standard Authority. He is a past president of the California State Sheriffs' Association.

Although he is respected for his professionalism and progressive thinking, among his deputies Sheriff Penrod is most known as someone who always cares for the members of his department. Wounded deputies have often told of finding the sheriff by their bedside, personally promising to help them and their families.

Madam Speaker, after 38 years as a law enforcement officer, Sheriff Penrod has decided to retire to spend more time with his wife Nancy and at his hobbies—horseback riding, raising cattle, fishing, camping and snow skiing. Please join me in thanking him for his years of service, and wishing him and Nancy success in all of their future endeavors.

#### RECOGNITION OF STEELTON-HIGHSPIRE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE PIAA SINGLE A CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2008–2009 Steelton-Highspire Steamrollers, from Steelton, PA in my congressional district. They completed an undefeated season with a victory over Clairton High School to become PIAA Single A State football champions.

The Steamrollers certainly had a season to remember setting school records in wins, points, and games played. They established the longest winning streak in school history with 25 wins dating back to last year. The Rollers capped off the season by winning their fourth straight District 3 title and their second consecutive PIAA State Single A Championship.

The Rollers were led by a group of seniors who will go down in Steelton-Highspire history as the most successful class in the great history of Steamroller football. In 4 years this

group compiled a record of 51 wins and 9 losses winning the district title all 4 years and two state championships. The offense was led by senior tailback Jeremiah Young, who ran for 2,812 yards and 30 touchdowns on 283 carries. Mr. Young broke the State's all-time career rushing record and stands seventh all time in the Nation with 9,027 yards.

I congratulate Steelton-Highspire High School and Coach Rob Deibler on a season to remember.

#### HONORING THOMAS G. LANDAAL

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Thomas G. Landaal. Sadly, Mr. Landaal passed away on December 5, 2007, at the age of 53, and the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation will posthumously induct Tom Landaal into their Circle of Distinguished Leaders on March 31st in Washington, DC at the joint meetings of the Fibre Box Association and the Association of Corrugated Converters. Mr. Landaal will be the ninth person to be inducted into this circle.

Born in Hinsdale, IL, Tom, as he was known to his friends, relocated to Flint, MI as a child. After graduating from Powers Catholic High School he obtained two degrees from Ferris State University, an AS degree in Building Construction and a BS degree in Business Administration. In 1979 he assumed a managerial role in the family business, Landaal Packaging Systems. As president of Landaal Packaging Systems he went on to become a leader in the packaging industry. He was affiliated with the International Corrugated Case Association in Paris, the Federation Europeenne des Fabricants de Carton Ondule based in Paris, the Sales and Marketing Executives and Technical Association Pulp and Paper Industry, as well as the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation. Tom served on the Board of Directors of the Fibre Box Association and the Independent Corrugated Converters Association. He was chair of the Fibre Box Association's Independent Sheet Plant Committee and served as the Fibre Box Association's representative on the Board of the Independent Corrugated Converters Association for many years.

In addition to his work in packaging industry, Tom Landaal was very active in his community and is sorely missed. He held leadership roles with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Hurley Medical Center, Hurley Foundation, Flint Classroom Support Fund, Hero of Flint, Burton Business Association, Burton Economic Development Corporation, Friends of Sloan Museum, Flint College and Cultural Center, Incorporated, Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan, Heartland Manor, Information Services of Michigan, Michigan State University, University Affiliated Hospitals of Flint, the Industrial Mutual Association, the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Manufacturers Association, and Powers Alumni Association. He belonged to several golf and ski groups including the National Ski Patrol.

Madam Speaker, the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation's Circle of Distinguished Leaders was instituted to honor

those persons that have brought vision, creativity, and energy to the promotion and advancement of the packaging industry. Tom Landaal was an advocate for improved technology and safe working conditions. This recognition by his peers is a fitting tribute to his enthusiasm for designing the best system to deliver the best product to his customers and to ensure the packaging industry remained on the cutting edge for fulfilling customer needs. I congratulate the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation for their selection of Thomas Landaal for this honor and hope his example will inspire the next generation to continue his work. I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me today and applaud the life and work of my good friend, Thomas Landaal.

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YEAR OF THE OX

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my best wishes to the millions of Asian Americans who are celebrating the Lunar New Year, which ushers in the Year of the Ox. Representing one of the largest Asian American populations in Southern California, I have had the distinct privilege in joining many of my Asian American constituents to commemorate this historic tradition.

The communities of Alhambra, San Gabriel, and Monterey Park have organized events and festivities for families to gather and celebrate the Year of the Ox. I am also delighted that this will be the 110th year that the Annual Golden Dragon Lunar New Year Parade, hosted by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles, will be bringing floats, marching bands, and various forms of entertainment to over 100,000 people. From parades to festivals, all will be able to enjoy the colorful, rich traditions that have been observed by many Asian cultures for centuries.

I wish you all the best in the Year of the Ox.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE IMPROVED BURN INJURY TREATMENT ACCESS ACT OF 2009

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Social Security and Medicare Improved Burn Injury Treatment Access Act of 2009. This legislation provides a waiver of the 24-month waiting period now required before an uninsured individual becomes eligible for Medicare coverage for disabling burn injuries, as well as the five-month waiting period for Social Security disability benefits.

Each year an estimated 500,000 people are treated for burn injuries. Of these 500,000 injuries, about 40,000 require hospitalization. Fire and burn deaths average about 4,000 per year.

Burn care is highly specialized. While there are thousands of trauma centers in the United

States, there are only 125 burn centers with a total burn-bed capacity of just over 1,800. These specialized burn centers treat about 25,000 patients annually, or on average, 200 admissions per year for each center. U.S. hospitals without burn centers treat the remaining patients and average less than three burn admissions per year.

Medical care for serious burn injuries is very expensive, which places a great financial strain on burn centers, about 40 percent of whose patients are uninsured. Because of these financial challenges, burn centers in Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Iowa and South Carolina have closed in just the past two years.

This is occurring at a time when the Federal Government is asking burn centers to expand their capacity to deal with mass casualty scenarios. The Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security have included burn centers in the Critical Benchmark Surge Capacity Criteria in the funding continuation requirements for State plans administered through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). HSS, in conjunction with the American Burn Association, has created a real-time, web-based burn bed capacity system in the national emergency preparedness center and funded Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) and clinical, on-site burn nurse training for 200 public health service nurses as a reserve capacity for potential mass burn casualty incidents, as well as supporting more than 20 ABLS courses with over 600 first-responders in 10 key areas of the country.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, DC, and major accidents like the Rhode Island nightclub fire and North Carolina chemical plant explosions demonstrate the substantial number of burn injuries that can result from such events. Over one-third of those hospitalized in New York on 9/11 had severe burn injuries. The Department of Homeland Security has recognized that there would be mass burn casualties in terrorist acts, and there is a need for appropriate preparedness activities. For example, if the United States should suffer further terrorist attacks using explosions, incendiary devices or chemical weapons, most victims would suffer severe burn injuries.

Even a relatively modest number of burn injuries can consume large segments of the Nation's burn bed capacity. For example, the victims of the Rhode Island nightclub fire absorbed the burn bed capacity of most of the northern East Coast of the United States. Mass burn casualties that reach into the hundreds or thousands would strain the system to the breaking point.

It is clear that burn centers are a national resource and a critical link to public health emergency preparedness. Medicare coverage for serious, disabling burn injuries would enable these burn centers to remain financially viable and preserve an essential component of our public health emergency infrastructure.

This legislation follows an approach already taken with respect to End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), both of which result in waivers of the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility. While these 2 diseases tend to be progressive in nature, the very initial phase of a serious burn injury is when things are most acute.

This legislation is similar to H.R. 685, which I introduced in the 110th Congress, except for the inclusion of some important cost containment provisions. No one with either public or private insurance at the time of their burn injury will be eligible for the 24-month waiver. Nor will State public insurance programs be permitted to restrict coverage for burn patients so as to place the burden solely on Medicare. The legislation also requires that the individual's disability status be reevaluated at least once every 3 years to ensure that those patients who have fully recovered from their burn injuries will not be able to stay on Medicare indefinitely.

Providing immediate Medicare coverage for uninsured patients suffering serious, disabling burn injuries is fully justified and a necessary step. Although not all hospitalized burn injuries would qualify as "disabling" and thus result in immediate Medicare coverage, this legislation is about providing coverage for the many uninsured patients suffering from serious burn injuries and ensuring the survival of a vital national resource that already is in jeopardy, a situation we cannot accept as we seek to prepare the nation to deal with potential mass casualty terrorist events.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, due to a death in the family I was absent for the following rollcall votes held January 21 and January 22, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated for each roll call listed: rollcall vote 23: "yea"; rollcall vote 24: "nay"; rollcall vote 25: "yea"; rollcall vote 26: "nay"; rollcall vote 27: "yea"; rollcall vote 28: "yea"; rollcall vote 29: "yea."

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IN MEMORY OF AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on January 26th, a long-time friend and favorite son of South Carolina, Austin Cunningham, passed away. In his lifetime—that spanned almost an entire century—Mr. Cunningham was a successful businessman, a tireless leader in the community, a prolific philosopher, and a mentor. He was a valued advisor to the late Congressman Floyd Spence and Governor Carol Campbell leading the efforts to reduce capital gains taxes. His steadfast belief in the importance and virtue of service was an inspiration to many, and he left a positive and indelible mark on South Carolina and the Nation.

Staff writer Lee Tant of the Times and Democrat of Orangeburg, South Carolina has thoughtfully developed the following fitting tribute to Mr. Cunningham.